

# The Brooklyn Paper

Including Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, Downtown News, DUMBO Paper and Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper



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## Ikea feeling Red Hook heat

Swedish giant modifies its plan to include some waterfront use, as rival developer offers a more ambitious water-centric vision



The Brooklyn Papers: Top: Chris

### Eggs-cellent!

Ashley Haywood, 4 (inset) shows off the colorful goodies she found during an Easter Egg hunt Saturday at Owl's Head Park in Bay Ridge. On Monday, youngsters hunted eggs at Coney Island's Kaysan Park. Easter, celebrating Jesus' resurrection, is Sunday. The Brooklyn Cyclones open at Citi Field on June 22.

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

Ikea has changed its plans for a massive waterfront store in Red Hook to include active use of several surrounding piers, an official with the Swedish home furnishings giant told The Brooklyn Papers this week.

The changes — which would have Ikea leasing most of the piers in the New York Shipyard site for maritime use — come in response to community concerns over maintaining a working waterfront, said the spokesman. But they may also have been spurred on by an alternative plan for the site put forth by some Baltimore harbor developers.

Red Hook activists opposed to the Ikea plan have been meeting with principals of the Baltimore-based Struvers Bros. Eccles & Rouse, a development company known for adaptive reuse projects. The company put together a plan for a sprawling, 70-acre, retail, residential and commercial development on the shipyard site between Richards and Columbia streets.

A rendering of the plan was made available exclusively to The Papers and appears at right. See **IKEA** on page 14



This rendering of the NY Shipyard site in Red Hook shows a plan for maximum waterfront activity as an alternative to Ikea's big box plan. Ikea's rendering is on page 14.

## Brooklyn Museum is set to reopen majestic entrance

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

As the Brooklyn Museum of Art gears up to unveil a new, \$63 million entrance-way and glass-enclosed pavilion, the institution also has a few other changes afoot. First off, there's the name change. After a pricey consultation with a Manhat-

### INSIDE OUT

GO BROOKLYN looks at the new museum. Page 7.

tan design firm, the museum decided to lop off a third of its name and will now simply be known as the Brooklyn Museum.

Along with the name change — it's reverting to the title by which it was known until the 1990s — the museum cast off its stylish, modern-looking BMA logo in favor of a single-letter, Rorschach Test-looking symbol.

The new logo is an unchanging stylized See **MUSEUM** on page 5



As entrance renovations to the Brooklyn Museum neared completion this week, work was still underway on the grand, glass-enclosed pavilion (foreground).

## Lesbian nightclub, a smoker's oasis, opening in Park Slope

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

Park Slope is known for having a large lesbian population, and starting this summer an East Village nightclub owner will look to tap into that demographic ... and maybe one other.

Night owls of all sexual preferences may be attracted to the two-story nightclub, especially those who like to enjoy a cigarette with their drink, as it will also feature a 1,200-square-foot terrace for smokers disenfranchised by the city and state bans on smoking in bars, a contractor working on the building confirmed.

The 4,000-square-foot bar will open just in

time for the Gay Pride Parade, as first reported in the Village Voice.

Named Catysshack, the nightclub will be located in a building nestled between a tire shop and an auto repair garage on Fourth Avenue, according to Brooke Webster, owner of the bar and nightclub Meow Mix, a lesbian-oriented venue Meow Mix on East Houston

Street that features bands and DJs, the Voice reported. Brooke could not be reached for comment.

While Catysshack may be the largest lesbian bar to hit the Slope, it's certainly not the first.

The Rising Cafe, a pioneer lesbian establishment opened on Fifth Avenue and Berkeley Street in 1991.

See **LESBIAN** on page 6

## Robs bank, then shops next door

The Brooklyn Papers

He was either incredibly dumb or really lazy, but a bandit who robbed a bank in Downtown Brooklyn went to a clothing store next door to buy a suit — right after the robbery.

As if popping into the Porta Bella clothing store on Fulton Street, just a storefront or two away from the HSBC bank he had just robbed, was not bonthead enough, the bungling bandit set off a dye pack when he went to pay.

The debacle began at 12:40 pm, on April 7, when the man entered the bank at 342 Fulton St. and passed a note to a teller demanding cash. He left with an undetermined amount of cash.

The suspect ran out of the bank and ducked into Porta Bella at 348 Fulton St.

"I want to buy a suit," he said.

But when he reached into his coat pocket to pull out some of the cash he had just robbed, a dye pack hidden inside a stack of bills exploded. The dye pack sent acrid red smoke into the air and stained and

See **BANK** on page 6

## Hip Halcyon, off Smith, DUMBO-bound

By Jotham Sederstrom  
The Brooklyn Papers

A Boerum Hill coffeehouse and nightclub credited with bringing nightlife to Smith Street is slated for a move

to DUMBO, another up-and-coming neighborhood in need of a late-night boost.

Halcyon, a venue at 227 Smith St. that also sells records, DJ gear and furniture, will

move its retail operations to 57 Pearl St. in early May, an indication that the balance of the operation could be following soon after.

The all-things-for-all-people cafe and club closed its doors this week after owners announced they were planning to expand

twofold in an undisclosed Brooklyn neighborhood sometime next year.

Jason Charles, a spokesman for Halcyon's owners — Ben Wild and cousins Stephen and Shawn Schwartz — would neither com-

See **HALCYON** on page 6

**WINTER'S OVER!**

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See page 15

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The Brooklyn Papers / Cindy Marzullo



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## Slope kids ready to play ball

During Little League Opening Day ceremonies at the Prospect Park Bandshell in Park Slope last Saturday, two girls from the Palomino's of the Saint Francis Xavier league are all smiles. Meanwhile, one of the Little Dodgers from the 78th Precinct Youth Council league soaks in the surroundings.

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## Remembered

Police officer (above) and firemen (top) gather at Keyspan Park memorial wall Palm Sunday to remember fallen heroes.

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## Bandit operates on Methodist Hospital

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

A safe-cracking thief snuck into an office at New York Methodist Hospital, on Sixth Street at Seventh Avenue, and made off with fists full of cash this week.

When he reported to work at 8 am on April 5, a hospital employee discovered that somebody had broken into his

## 78 PCT. BLOTTER

office and opened a safe with \$1,700 stashed inside.

The thief pocketed that cash and also took \$145 from a desk drawer, police said.

No other property was taken from the office.

### Nab teens

A crew of teen street toughs were arrested for allegedly attacking a 13-year-old boy walking home along President Street.

The afternoon mugging occurred just after 3:15 pm on March 30 when a group of five teens crossed the street and surrounded the victim, demanding his money.

When the victim refused, one of the attackers asked for the time.

The boy refused that request, as well, and the group pounced on him, punching him in the face.

The thugs continued to pummel the boy until a passerby yelled out for them to stop.

A nearby police officer took the victim to find the suspects and tracked them down at the Union Street subway station at Fourth Avenue.

A 15-year-old and two 17-year-olds were placed under arrest, police said.

### Beemer in dark

The BMW 530i might go from zero to 60 in just 7.2 seconds, but it isn't going anywhere at night without a pair of headlights.

A Park Slope motorist learned that the hard way this week when at 7:50 am on April 1 he returned to find the expensive Xenon headlights

ripped from his Beemer, which was parked on Fourth Street between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West.

The lights, valued at \$4,500, had been pulled out of the car sometime during the night, police said.

The victim told police he has had his lights looked two times over the past three months.

### April fooled

A pair of roommates returned to their St. Marks Place apartment near Fourth Avenue on April 1 to find it missing more than a few things.

The two left the apartment at 10 am, but by time they returned at 3 pm, a thief had broken in and made off with almost \$2,000 worth of their belongings.

The stolen booty included a black medical bag, watch, radio, Sony PlayStation video game console, DVD player, cell phone, black leather jacket and a Nike duffel bag.

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Nicholas Christopher

*Crossing the Equator*

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**Friday, April 9th: Good Friday**

10a.m. Morning Prayer

3p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

(veneration of the Cross)

7:30p.m. El Via Crucis en Español

(al fresco según lo permitan las condiciones del tiempo).

**Saturday, April 10th: Holy Saturday**

8p.m. Solemn Easter Vigil Mass

**Sunday, April 11th: Easter Sunday**

9:30a.m. English Mass and children's Liturgy

11a.m. Misa en Español

12:15p.m. English Mass

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# AFFORDABLE HOUSING

## Gets a foothold in a gentrifying Red Hook

By Jotham Sederstrom  
The Brooklyn Papers

A plan to create as many as 61 new units of affordable and mixed-income housing in slowly gentrifying Red Hook moved a step closer to reality last week when a Community Board 6 committee approved plans to begin construction on two of the buildings by next fall.

Tentatively called the Red Hook Homes, 41 apartments in two connected, four-story buildings on Wolcott Street, and a four-story building on Coffey Street that would hold

20 units, would be sold to low- and mixed-income residents. If the city approves the plan, applications will be available in fall.

The project is expected to cost about \$13 million, most of which has already been financed, according to the Fifth Avenue Committee, the Park Slope-based affordable housing advocacy group that is developing the co-ops.

At least 19 units will be set aside for residents of the nearby Red Hook Homes, a city housing project that is home to about 75 percent of the neighborhood's residents.

"We've supported this for a long time," said John McGettrick, co-chairman of the Red Hook Civic Association. "We believe it's a positive step for Red Hook, which has lost half its population in 40 years. There's a desperate need for affordable housing."

The entire project will consist of three buildings, including a proposed four-story building at 135 Coffey St. The two approved by the CB6 committee last week are located at 71 and 79 Wolcott St. They are expected to be approved by the full board on Wednesday.

Developer Greg O'Connell, the neighborhood's largest property owner, sold about 16 of his lots to the Fifth Avenue Committee for \$1 million, about \$850,000 below the appraised value. Most of those lots are on Wolcott Street, with others speckled across Dileman and Coffey streets.

"Basically, as gentrification takes place, it's important that there's affordable housing in place for people who are working hard," said O'Connell. "This is a good sign and that's why we did this."

The plan comes amid large-scale changes in the neighborhood, including plans for an Ikea at the end of Columbia Street at the old New York



## Seder sitter

Mayor Michael Bloomberg greets Blanch Sherman at Congregation Mt. Sinai's Passover Seder, Tuesday on Cadman Plaza West in Brooklyn Heights.

Shipyard site and a Fairway grocery store at the end of Van Brunt Street being developed by O'Connell. The future of piers 8-12 is also under review.

The Fifth Avenue Committee units, which would include one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, will be divided evenly between low- and moderate-income and market-rate prices. The low-income units, according to Susan Friedland, the Fifth Avenue Committee, would be sold for between \$45,000 and \$70,000; the moderate-income units from

\$100,000 to \$140,000; and the market-rate units from \$250,000 to \$300,000.

Applications will be available within one month of the start of construction, which is expected to begin next fall, said Friedland. Advertising for the available spaces will be circulated within Community Board 6, which comprises Red Hook, Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, Gowanus and Cobble Hill.

Borough President Marty Markowitz and City Council members Bill DeBlasio and Sara Gonzalez all support the

project.

"This had been through the committee many, many, many times," said Bette Stoltz, president of the South Brooklyn Local Development Corporation. "We approve of the scale that we want to see built in Red Hook and it has the income mix that's been negotiated to satisfy everyone."

The proposal will come before Markowitz next and he will have 30 days to make a recommendation before sending it to the City Planning Commission.

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# Beep: I'm not a 'BCAT' hog'

To the editor:

This letter is in response to the article headlined "Producer: Marty's a 'BCAT' hog," published in the April 3 edition of The Brooklyn Papers.

When I was elected Brooklyn borough president, one of my initiatives was to form an independent committee to prepare a report on the borough's rich and dynamic cultural infrastructure. One of the recommendations was to create a panel to strategically review BCAT with the aim of helping to make it the best public access outlet in the country, and one that is a communications resource for individuals and organizations. In this initial assessment, BCAT's facilities were viewed to be among the best in public access, but awareness of BCAT's services and resources was low in many of Brooklyn's neighborhoods and communities of interest. A key recommendation was

## LETTERS

to increase awareness and ensure that BCAT and its programs reflected of "all of Brooklyn."

Like every elected official I am permitted to broadcast on BCAT. "Everything Brooklyn" does not preempt any programming nor does it dominate airtime. It is misleading to report that "Everything Brooklyn" dominates BCAT air time, when in fact the program is broadcast for one hour, once a week, with one repeat (same episode). Since I was elected as borough president, there have been 469 new programs added to BCAT's schedule. Public access stations exist to inform and educate as well as reflect the commu-

nity it is licensed to serve. BCAT is a tremendous resource and I would like to see that the services it provides to the community are sought after and used to showcase individual and organizational interest.

This past weekend in your paper I was taken aback to read my actions characterized as self-serving and an act of censorship. In a laughable attempt to make a point, I was compared to former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani in an analogy to draw a correlation between his censoring the Brooklyn Museum of Art (1999) fiasco and my efforts to open BCAT to new, innovative ideas for deserving individuals and organizations — a pathetic stretch. My efforts to improve broad-based BCAT programming is not about censorship, but rather, to encourage everyone in Brooklyn to use BCAT. It is with this kind of participation, that BCAT can best fulfill its intended mission.

While I have not been named in the petition — that incidentally has been reduced to complaint status by the Public Service Commission — I continue to be a target for what appears to be a frustrated producer and his attorney who simply are misguided and incorrect in their characterization of my efforts to make BCAT what it should be: A forum of education, interest, information and entertainment for all — not some — of Brooklyn!

I make no apology for the goal of making BCAT a sense of pride for Brooklyn and its neighborhoods, organizations and people that make up the rich tapestry of Brooklyn life.

— **Marty Markowitz**,  
Brooklyn Borough President  
Editor's note: Every effort to obtain a comment from Borough President Markowitz was made by The Brooklyn Papers for the above-referenced article, but he declined.

## Producer 'likes' Marty

To the editor:

I am writing about the article headlined "Producer: Marty's a 'BCAT' hog" in last week's paper. I especially love the fact that you mentioned that I help both tenants and small homeowners and people who can't afford attorneys. "Rent Wars" has been the subject of articles in the New York Times and other periodicals. No one had ever noticed that "Rent Wars" also tries to help the small homeowner in foreclosure or the co-op owner with a psycho board. Our issue is not only tenants rights, but also housing in general, and court abuse of the unrepresented (which is extremely common in housing-related cases).

I was quoted extensively in the article

and I am extremely pleased at how the quotes selected accurately related my position. I am not a Marty-hater and filed this petition with great reluctance after attempting for months to reach an informal resolution to the airtime problem. I greatly appreciate that your paper quoted me about never expecting to sue Marty and the way you mentioned the other BCAT shows that suffer from this takeover. This petition was bigger than "Rent Wars." And your excellent article demonstrated that fact.

Please keep up the good work. Without media like you, the issues that affect over 2 million Brooklynites would never get reported.

— **Ronin Amato**,  
producer, "Rent Wars"

## MUSEUM...

Continued from page 1

capital B, against the background of eight different formal seals or splashes in one brilliant color, an electric cyan blue," according to a museum press release.

Visitors will have the opportunity to glimpse both the new logo and museum renovations when the institution swings open its doors for "Open!" a free celebration weekend on April 17 and April 18.

Shrouded by construction scaffolding and plywood for the better part of three years, the museum at 200 Eastern Parkway will finally pull back the curtain on its new, three-tiered, Beaux-Arts facade, which was designed by Polshek Partnership Architects.

The renovations include a light-filled, glass-enclosed pavilion extension on the lobby, an 80,000-square-foot public plaza and programmable outdoor fountains that can shoot water 60 feet into the air.

The Daniel Chester French sculptures of Manhattan and Brooklyn have been returned to the front of the museum.

The renovations are all expected to be completed in time except for one portion of the plaza, said museum spokeswoman Sally Williams. The museum receives approximately 400,000 visitors each year and Williams said she expects that number to increase with the renovations and additions.

The new design traces back to the museum's classical facade, designed in the 1890s by the architecture firm of McKim, Mead and White.

The new entrance will be dramatically more accessible than the original one — a stone staircase twice the height of the steps at the Metropolitan Museum of Art that reached out directly onto Eastern Parkway.

Then-Museum Director Philip Youtz had that staircase removed under a shroud of controversy in 1934. Youtz wanted to make the building less imposing and more accessible.

In conjunction with the museum renovations, the MTA is renovating the Eastern Parkway 2/3 subway station, including 78 architectural fragments from the museum collection, Williams said.

The current \$63 million project was primarily funded by the city with additional support from museum trustees.

Founded in 1823 as the Brooklyn Apprentices Library, the institution incorporated a natural history collection and in 1863 became the Brooklyn Institute. But in the 1890s the institute changed its name again, to the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.

Finally, as part of the building's centennial celebration in 1997, the museum changed the name to the Brooklyn Museum of Art.

More information on the Open! celebration is available on the museum's Web site at [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org), or by calling (718) 638-5000.

## Cops prep for terror

Associated Press

The New York Police Department hopes to give 10,000 officers special anti-terror training in time for the Republican National Convention.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly outlined the training program — launched in February with federal money — during a demonstration conducted last Thursday in Brooklyn.

At a training center, the officers "are exposed to a poisonous environment, the chaos of a subway attack and other simulated events," Kelly said. In groups of 150, they prepare for a possible chemical, biological or nuclear attack during a two-day course.

Wearing protective suits and masks, the officers drill in a "smoke house" — a large, dimly lit trailer pumped full of smoke. They also train inside a subway car, where other officers act as panicked civilians. The officers also learn to establish control zones around contaminated areas to keep the public away.

"There is no exact blueprint for a terrorist attack, so our aim is to train for the greatest variety of circumstances," Kelly said.

## Hunt rapists in W'burg attacks



The Brooklyn Papers

Police are continuing their search for a pair of rapists who attacked a woman and her friend in the vestibule of her Williamsburg apartment building last weekend.

The women, both 27, were followed home from a nearby gallery at around 10 pm last Saturday, April 3, and the two attackers forced their way into the building with them. Police say the ordeal lasted for nearly an hour.

The rapists led the two women out to a car, but were scared away when one of the women ran off down the block screaming and was able to flag down a passerby who called 911.

Police say both men are Hispanic. They described one as about 27 years old, 160 pounds and 5-foot-3. The second was described as about 25, 175 pounds and 5-foot-9. The first man revealed to the women a pair of tattoos — one depicting what looks like a tail protruding from his waistband, the other a cross on the left side of his chest.

Police say the women were treated at Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan and released the next morning.

Police are asking anyone with information to call their CRIMESTOPPERS hotline at (800) 577-TIPS.

— *Joatham Sederstrom*

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# 84th Pct. gets a new top cop

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

For the past five years, Capt. Philip Sferazza has kept a close eye on the grand larcenies, burglaries and community affairs of the 84th Precinct.

As a lieutenant and then executive officer, the 38-year-old captain is now taking the reins of the precinct covering Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill, Downtown Brooklyn and DUMBO.

Just last month, Sferazza was promoted to commanding officer, replacing Inspector Christopher Rising, who was promoted to head the NYPD Vice Squad. Asked about his new post, Sferazza called it "a wish come true" and thanked police brass for the opportunity.

With 10 new officers recently assigned to the precinct, the 18-year veteran says he already has his hands full. But his first priority has been to make sure that there are beat cops in each neighborhood.

"Sometimes people like to have a cop to call their own," he said.

Sferazza has assigned a new two-officer post at York and Gold streets, where tenants in the Farragut Houses have com-



Capt. Philip Sferazza

plained of drug dealing.

The commanding officer also plans to assign an officer to patrol the streets of DUMBO.

Following a string of incidents, police posted a car and patrol outside the F train subway station at York Street. But residents still complain of feeling unsafe in the area, and so Sferazza says he wants to beef up the police presence.

In Brooklyn Heights, an officer patrols Montague Street and keeps a watchful eye on the nearby banks.

And in Boerum Hill, Sferazza is planning to add another beat cop, as well. The blooming

trees along the neighborhood's side streets block street lights and can lead to extra crime, he said.

With heightened terrorist alerts, the precinct command also must keep a careful watch on both the Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges, courthouses, 911 emergency system and MetroTech, all located within the area, Sferazza said.

The most prevalent crime in the precinct, he said, is grand larceny, which includes burglaries.

But he was very concerned that the precinct had its first shooting of 2004 on April 4, which is still under investigation.

Born and raised in Sunset Park, Sferazza now lives in Long Island with his wife and family. "But my heart is still in Brooklyn," he said.

Before being assigned to the 84th Precinct, Sferazza also worked for PSA 3, a unit covering public housing projects in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Fort Greene, Vinegar Hill and Bushwick. Prior to that he was a sergeant in Brooklyn South Narcotics and in the 68th Precinct in Bay Ridge. Even though he already knows most community leaders, with his new role, Sferazza says these days he is busy reintroducing himself.

# HALCYON...

Continued from page 1

firm nor deny that the venue would be moving to DUMBO, saying only that they had chosen a location that was more than double its current 1,500-square-foot space.

The record and DJ gear shop, to be called Halcyon 1.5: The Shop, is scheduled to open on Pearl Street at Water Street on May 11.

"We're looking forward to being a presence in DUMBO, just as we were on Smith Street," said Charles, who added that the music store would either remain at that location or become part of the new venue when that opens next year.

The storefront, inside a red-brick, five-story building, will house Halcyon's collection of books, DJ gear, apparel and more than 7,000 records. Previously, that merchandise and an abundance of furniture was stored and sold inside the venue on Smith Street.

"This phase of Halcyon is important to us," Charles said of the retail opening. "It's going to look great and people are going to want to come in, we hope. We're looking to make the people of DUMBO happy."

The building is half a block from Superfine, a chic eatery on Front Street that has been a draw in DUMBO for three years. Tanya Rynd, one of three owners of Superfine, echoed others who supported Halcyon's move to the neighborhood. Rynd said she spoke to one of the owners and that he told her they planned to move the larger venue to DUMBO next year.

"Yeah, I'm kind of a fan of what they're doing," said Rynd, whose restaurant and bar will be part of "Dine-In Brooklyn" starting April 15, the borough's first-ever restaurant week.

"I think it's great," she said. "They'd kind of be competition, but we're basically trying to energize the same type of people. I think it's going to be a great thing."

Charles said that Halcyon had outgrown its current location due to its increasing popularity with people citywide. He added that Wild and the Schwartz cousins wanted to relocate to an area where the venue could more easily obtain a cabaret license.

The new venue won't open until early next year, said Charles, who said that the multi-level space that has been targeted for the move needs to be reworked.

"I was hoping they would come," said Marcia Hillis, a member of the DUMBO Neighborhood Association.

"I'm really excited about a move to DUMBO and I think they'd be a great addition to the neighborhood," she said. "It's a much-needed venue."

Despite Halcyon's hand in reshaping Smith Street as a nightlife destination, it also helped to attract more young homeowners and renters to the area, some of whom eventually began complaining about noise from its unlicensed outdoor patio.

Halcyon, which opened at 11 am and closed at 1 am on weekdays — about 2 am on weekends — drew patrons throughout the day and into the night, thanks in no small part to its combination of offering both coffee and booze.

At least 30 people signed a petition calling for Halcyon to lower its volume, both inside and outside, though little came of those actions. It was only after a Saturday evening raid in 2003 by a multi-agency task force that the illegally operating patio was shut down.

But many residents and merchants around Smith Street said they would miss Halcyon.

"It's gonna be missed," said Shane Kessler, a bartender at Angry Wade's, directly across the street from Halcyon. "It's a great alternative to Starbucks."

Despite closing to the public last week, Halcyon has three parties scheduled for this weekend and next, including a final parting bash on April 17, featuring DJs Carol C., Nat Rahav and Sabo.

# LESBIAN...

Continued from page 1

ley Place in the late 1990s, before that strip was overrun with bistros and boutiques. But the Rising was forced to close last year when its owners could no longer afford the skyrocketing rents on the lot avenue.

Ginger's Pub, just blocks away on Fifth Avenue at Fifth Street, meanwhile, is still going strong and is packed most nights of the week.

Asked about the new mega-lesbian bar opening on Fourth Avenue, Ginger's owner Sheila Frayne said she couldn't wait.

"I think it's great, the more in the neighborhood the better," said Frayne, who opened up Ginger's four years ago. "It will help keep people in Park Slope instead of going to the city."

The expansive Catysback will also mark the first lesbian bar to open along Fourth Avenue, a relatively barren, wide commercial street known for gas stations and auto repair shops. While underground clubs are said to have existed for years along Fourth Avenue, Catysback points to the first official spillover from trendy Fifth Avenue.

And you can probably expect to see more.

As part of the Park Slope rezoning approved last year, Fourth Avenue will soon boast soaring residential buildings and is expected to host new bars and restaurants.

"Fourth Avenue was hell," said Eric Richmond, who runs the Brooklyn Lyceum, a theater and cafe at Fourth Avenue and President Street. Richmond recalls that when he first bought the former bathhouse the area was plagued with prostitutes, drug dealers and garbage dumping.

"Every shady contractor dumped their debris on Fourth Avenue," said Richmond, who says that sticking it out over the years hasn't always been easy.

But he welcomes Catysback.

"It's good to see something happening," Richmond said.

Local merchants all seemed to support the change.

"I don't think it will bring any more business to Fifth Avenue or take away any business," said Judi Pfeiffer, president of the Fifth Avenue Merchant's Association and owner of Bob and Judi's Crookettes, on Fifth Avenue between President and Union streets.

Andrew Alarum, who works at the A&J Tire Center at 251 Fourth Ave., said the new bar shouldn't affect his business, but raised questions about its proximity to a church down Carroll Street on the other side of Fourth Avenue.

Asked about any objections he might have to a gay bar, Alarum said, "I don't care, let the lesbians live their lives."

# BANK...

Continued from page 1

singed dollars about the store.

"I'll see you guys later," the bandit said before pulling off his red hat and black jacket and fleeing.

"I didn't realize he had robbed a bank but I thought something was wrong," said Porta Bella manager Eliah Seif.

Seif said that after he extinguished the smoking money he ran outside to see where the man had gone.

"I think he jumped on the bus," said Seif, who added that three blue rayon shirts, valued at \$25 each, were destroyed in the incident.

Seif described the suspect as short and stocky, wearing a gray sweater and black pants. Police retrieved his jacket and hat from the store.

Police were searching for the suspect as this went to press.

— Deborah Kolben

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

April 10, 2004

# Inside out

Brooklyn Museum to unveil two new shows and a revamped Hall of the Americas

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

The Brooklyn Museum is out to prove that its beauty goes much farther than skin deep. Beyond its facility—a new front entrance and glass-enclosed pavilion to be unveiled April 17 with a weekend-long celebration called “Open!”—the museum will simultaneously reveal three new exhibitions.

In addition to a completely revamped Hall of the Americas with its reinstallation of native arts of North, Central and South America, there will be a first-time-ever retrospective of influential fashion designer Patrick Kelly’s gowns and personal artifacts, as well as the mind-boggling exhibit, “Open House,” featuring the works of nearly 200 Brooklyn artists.

This week, GO Brooklyn took a behind-the-scenes tour of the new Brooklyn Museum (which topped off “of Art” from its name on March 12). Our insider’s glimpse revealed a buzzing hive of activity in and around the institution.

Inside the grand, colonnaded Hall of the Americas on the first floor, chief exhibition designer Matthew Yokobosky has daintily chosen not only to paint vibrant murals—of an erupting volcano and mountain range, a forest and a condor silhouetted against the moon—on the walls of the exhibition space, but to paint the enormous hall’s columns, which are scattered throughout the center of the space.

The effect of the wide stripes of paint, which run lengthwise, up and down the columns, is nothing short of Oscar-worthy. Visitors standing in the center of the room who slowly spin around will notice a change in the quality of light as their eyes pan over golden-yellow columns, then deep twilight purple and dark blue. It truly feels as though the sun is rising and setting.

“I wanted to evoke the natural environment to give a sense of mood and time of day,” Yokobosky explained of his 3-D mural effect.

Under the direction of Nancy Rosoff, the Andrew W. Mellon curator and chair of Arts of the Americas, this hall will house “Living Legacies: The Arts of the Americas” a reorganization and thematic (as opposed to chronological) reinstallation of the museum’s collection of art from the northwest coast (including newly conserved totem poles from Canada’s Queen Charlotte Islands) and Andean textiles, including the famed “Paracas textile.”

“The Paracas textile is a big draw,” explained museum spokesman Adam Husted. “A lot of scholars come to the museum to study that.”

Some of the works will also be easier to

## ART

“Open House: Working in Brooklyn,” “Living Legacies: The Arts of the Americas” and “Patrick Kelly: A Retrospective” will open at the newly refurbished Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, on April 17. Admission is free April 17, from 11 am to 11 pm, and April 18, from 11 am to 6 pm. For more information about the “Open!” weekend of festivities, visit the museum’s Web site at [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org) or call (718) 638-5000.



examine than in the past, as many of them will be in stand-alone glass cases, which visitors can circle for a 360-degree view.

Last but not least, one of the murals in this hall is full of traditional glyphs, handprints of the museum’s employees.

“It’s symbolic of the individual and how he fits into the community,” explained Husted, who placed his own green handprint on the wall, too. “It makes you feel part of something. It’s historic.”

The museum employees are clearly leaving a lasting impression, because, as Yokobosky pointed out, the last time the Hall of the Americas was redecorated was 50 years ago.

Also on the first floor, Patrick Kelly, a designer who achieved widespread notoriety in the late 1980s for his form-fitting gowns embellished with vibrantly colored buttons, will be honored with a retrospective. Yokobosky has displayed Kelly’s dresses on dress forms and also on hangers from clotheslines—



Behind-the-scenes: Inside the Brooklyn Museum, artists and employees worked feverishly this week to mount three new exhibitions, simultaneously. (Clockwise from left) artist David Brody creates “Fragment of a Much Larger Thing: LATTERDAYS” in the “Open House: Working in Brooklyn” exhibit; “In Patrick Kelly: A Retrospective,” the designer’s signature dresses, embellished with buttons, are being hung; and works of art are being returned to the newly re-painted Hall of the Americas.

many of them near the items that inspired their creation from the artist’s own enormous collection of black dolls, golliwogs, Josephine Baker memorabilia and other collectibles, giving insight into his creative process.

The Kelly exhibit is being organized by guest curator Theima Golden, deputy director for exhibitions and programs at the Studio Museum in Harlem.

Just a glimpse of the exhibit, which was still being installed, exuded the colorful, high-energy, utterly whimsical visual feast to come, which itself feeds off the designer’s own electric, optimistic palette of colors. Video monitors will offer interviews with the artist. Already-hung portraits show the handsome, smiling Kelly surrounded by a bevy of his models, before his tragic death from AIDS in 1990 at age 35.

Finally, Charlotte Kotik, chairwoman of the museum’s Department of Contemporary Art, was busily directing an installation on two floors of the museum of more than 300 works of art by nearly 200 Brooklyn artists. For this exhibition, “Open House: Working in Brooklyn,” Kotik estimates that she and assistant curator Tumele Moska have considered for inclusion the works of nearly 1,000 artists, sometimes visiting three studios a day.

While Kotik doesn’t believe that the works of Brooklyn artists have any similarities based on their geographical location, she has observed a common personality trait.

“Their generosity!” said Kotik. “We found out about the names and addresses of artists through artists. It is very refreshing how open and sharing they are. In spite of the fact that as seeing this next artist’s work could mean excluding theirs, because everyone could not be included, they are extremely forthcoming.

See MUSEUM on page 12

## CINEMA

### Bill is due

The “What About Bill Murray” film series kicks off with a bang on April 13 with the man himself, actor Bill Murray, arriving for a Q&A. Murray will answer questions from the audience at 9:30 pm in the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House following simultaneous screenings of “Quick Change” (1990), “Nothing Lasts Forever” (1984), “Ghostbusters” (1984) and “Lost in Translation” (2003), for which he garnered a Best Actor Oscar nomination. The Q&A will be moderated by New York Times film critic Elvis Mitchell.



On April 22, at 7 pm, BAM will offer a sneak preview of the new Jim Jarmusch film “Coffee and Cigarettes,” a collection of the director’s old and new black-and-white shorts, one of which features Murray. [The sneak preview is for BAM Cinema Club members only. Call (718) 636-4129 to join.]

The “Bill Murray” film series continues through May 5. A limited number of \$0 general admission mezzanine and balcony tickets remain for the April 13 talk. Tickets for the films are \$10.

The screenings and Q&A take place at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene. For the complete schedule of films, visit the Web site at [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

— Lisa J. Curtis

## NIGHTLIFE

### Roped in

“I come here for the board,” says Joe Vitale, 28, of Fort Greene, as he points to the tiny blackboard of daily specials behind the bar at Rope, on Myrtle Avenue. “All of the deals are awesome!”

Rope’s happy hour runs from 5:30 pm to 8 pm, boasting \$1 off everything, every day. Pabst Blue Ribbon is just a buck all night long on Mondays. Yungling is \$3—all the time. And perhaps the best deal at Rope is its free pizza every Tuesday at 8 pm.

But there are plenty of other reasons to go to Rope for a nightclub. Open since

December, the rhythmic beats of alternative and punk rock music—playing from the jukebox reflect the casual atmosphere. The dim—spotlights bouncing off the deep-red exposed brick walls provide a warm and mellow feel.

“We get a real mix of people in here,” says Rope bartender Adrianna Ault (pictured). “There are 20- and 30-somethings on certain days and Pratt students on others. Waiters and waitresses even make it their last stop before they head home after work.”

With so much to choose from at the well-stocked bar to the selection of jukebox music, to the blackboard specials, customers leave Rope feeling satisfied.

Coming soon: owner Frank Moe will open a back patio when the warm weather kicks in. Rope, at 415 Myrtle Ave., between Vanderbilt and Clinton avenues in Clinton Hill, is open daily at 5:30 pm. For more information, call (718) 522-2899.

— Chiara V. Cowan

## EVENT

### Take ‘Action’

The Public is invited to join in on workshops and open performances as part of Poly Prep Country Day School’s day-long arts celebration on April 17, “Art in Action.”

From 11 am to 5 pm, the school will hold its first homecoming for the arts including site-specific dance performed by choreographer Bill Sigman (Poly Prep Class of ’85), as well as a capella singing, jazz jam sessions, group mural projects and batik, fresco, paper-making workshops and a lot more.

The event is open to the public.

“Art in Action” will take place at Poly Prep Country Day School’s Dyker Heights campus at Seventh Avenue at 92nd Street. For a complete schedule of the day’s events and directions, visit the Web site at [www.polyprep.org](http://www.polyprep.org) or call Kim Gabbidon at (718) 836-9800 ext. 309.

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# Tasty invitation

*Borough's eateries band together to offer cheap prix fixe & great food*

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

Even though the coming week will find the Easter and Passover holidays behind us, and our taxes filed (ouch!), there is still something to look forward to — Brooklyn's first-ever restaurant week. Foodies would do well to take advantage of the great deals — lunch, dinner or both (depending on the restaurant) for just \$18.98 — by picking up the phone and making reservations.

The "Dine In Brooklyn" promotion is an initiative of Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz and the Brooklyn Tourism & Visitors Center.

From April 15 through April 22, these restaur-

ants will offer a three-course meal (not including beverages, tax or gratuity) for a price that celebrates the year Brooklyn joined New York City. On a more practical level, the promotion gives food enthusiasts a chance to try expensive, well-reviewed restaurants at budget prices.

Judging from the overwhelming response to past, Manhattan-centric restaurant weeks, interested gourmands should call early for reservations, and, out of courtesy to the eateries — as well as fellow diners — call back to cancel any reservations that cannot be met. At participating restaurants, MasterCard users will get a free "Spirit of Brooklyn" poster.

For more information about many of these restaurants, log onto [www.go-brooklyn.com](http://www.go-brooklyn.com), or call (718) 802-3846.

## Bay Ridge

**Aero Restaurant** (Lunch)  
8424 Third Ave. at 86th Street (R train to 86th St.) (718) 238-0079

**Amici Restaurant** (Dinner)  
9202 Fort Hamilton Parkway at 92nd Street (R train to 95th St.) (718) 238-2120

**Airrang Hibachi Steakhouse** (Dinner)  
8814 Fourth Ave. at 88th Street (R train to 86th St.) (718) 238-9880

**Chadwick's Restaurant** (Dinner)  
8822 Third Ave. at 88th Street (R train to 86th St.) (718) 833-9855

**Ella** (Dinner)  
8611 Third Ave. at 86th Street (R train to 86th St.) (718) 238-9971

**Embers** (Dinner)  
9519 Third Ave. at 95th Street (R train to 95th St.) (718) 745-3700

**Griswold's Pub** (Dinner)  
7726 Third Ave. at 77th Street (R train to 77th St.) (718) 745-3340

**Jimmy's** (Dinner)  
7204 Third Ave. at 72nd Street (R train to 77th St.) (718) 567-8300

**101** (Lunch/Dinner)  
10018 Fourth Ave. at 100th Street (R train to 95th St.) (718) 833-1313

**Pazzo** (Dinner)  
120-07 Fourth Ave. at 120th Street (R train to 95th St.) (718) 238-4747

**The Pearl Room** (Lunch/Dinner)  
8201 Third Ave. at 82nd Street (R train to 86th St.) (718) 833-6666

**Provence on Boite** (Lunch/Dinner)  
8303 Third Ave. at 83rd Street (R train to 86th St.) (718) 739-1515

**Ristorante Vaccaro** (Dinner)  
6716 Fort Hamilton Parkway at 67th Street (N train to Fort Hamilton Parkway) (718) 238-9447

**Samm's Restaurant & Lounge** (Dinner)  
8901 Third Ave. at 89th Street (R train to 86th St.) (718) 238-0606

**St. Michel** (Dinner)  
7518 Third Ave. at 75th Street (R train to 77th St.) (718) 748-4411

**Tuscany Grill** (Dinner)  
8620 Third Ave. at 86th Street (R train to 86th St.) (718) 921-5633

**Bedford-Stuyvesant**  
**Akwaba Cafe** (Dinner)  
393 Lewis Ave. at Decker Street (A train to Union Ave.) (718) 774-1444

**Yolée African Bistro** (Lunch/Dinner)  
1108 Fulton St. at Franklin Avenue (C train to Franklin Ave.)

## Bensonhurst

**Andiamo Ristorante** (Dinner)  
1709 84th St. at Bay 16th Street (D, M trains to 18th Ave.) (718) 331-7100

**Villa Paradiso** (Dinner)  
1949 Bath Ave. at 20th Avenue (D, M trains to 20th Ave.) (718) 837-2696

**Boerum Hill**  
**Bacchus** (Dinner)  
409 Atlantic Ave. at Bond Street (A, C, G trains to Hoyt-Schermerhorn) (718) 852-1572

**BarTabac** (Lunch)  
128 Smith St. at Dean Street (F train to Court St.) (718) 923-0918

**Brawta Caribbean Café** (Dinner)  
347 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street (A, C, G trains to Hoyt-Schermerhorn) (718) 855-5515

**Downtown Atlantic** (Lunch)  
264 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street (A, C, G trains to Hoyt-Schermerhorn) (718) 852-9945

**LaRosa & Son** (Dinner)  
98 Smith St. at Pacific Street (F, G trains to Bergen St.) (718) 925-0545

**Pacifico** (Dinner)  
269 Pacific St. at Smith Street (F, G trains to Bergen Street) (718) 925-9090

**Pier 116** (Dinner)  
116 Smith St. at Pacific Street (F, G trains to Bergen St.) (718) 824-1617

**Borough Park**  
**China Glatt** (Glatt Kosher) (Dinner)  
4413 13th Ave. at 44th Street (D, M trains to Fort Hamilton Pkwy) (718) 638-2676

**Douglas BBQ & Grill** (Kosher) (Lunch/Dinner)  
4310 18th Ave. at 43rd Street (F train to 18th Ave.) (718) 688-8080

**Brighton Beach**  
**Tatiana** (Lunch)  
3152 Brighton Sixth St. at the Boardwalk (B, Q trains to Brighton Beach) (718) 891-5151

**Brooklyn Heights**  
**Bedi's Café & Eatery** (Dinner)  
10 Columbia Place at Joralemon Street (R train to Court St.) (718) 835-9158

**Waterfront Ale House** (Lunch/Dinner)  
155 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street (D, J, 4, 5 trains to Borough Hall; F, G trains to Bergen St.) (718) 522-3794

**Carroll Gardens**  
**Cafe Saramouche** (Lunch/Dinner)  
524 Court St. at Huntington Street (F, G trains to Smith-Ninth St.) (718) 835-9158

**Crave** (Dinner)  
570 Henry St. at Carroll Street (F, G trains to Carroll St.) (718) 643-0361

**Marco Polo Ristorante** (Lunch/Dinner)  
345 Court St. at Union Street (F, G trains to Carroll St.) (718) 852-5015

**P.J. Hanley's** (Dinner)  
449 Court St. at Fourth Place (F, G trains to Carroll St.) (718) 834-8223

**Panino'teca 275** (Dinner)  
275 Smith St. at DeGraw Street (F, G trains to Carroll St.) (718) 237-2728

**Patois** (Dinner)  
255 Smith St. at Douglas Street (F, G trains to Carroll St.) (718) 855-1535

**Red Rose Restaurant** (Lunch/Dinner)  
315 Smith St. at Union Street (F, G trains to Carroll St.) (718) 625-0963

**Cobble Hill**  
**Cafe del Mar** (Lunch/Dinner)  
311 Henry St. at Atlantic Avenue (R train to Court St.) (718) 243-0487

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Thomas Beisl, chef of Thomas Beisl's Viennese bistro, Thomas Beisl, will offer a three-course, \$18.98 prix fixe lunch for "Dine In Brooklyn" week.

**Armando Ristorante** (Lunch/Dinner)  
143 Montague St. at Henry Street (R train to Court St.; 2, 3, 4, 5 trains to Borough Hall) (718) 624-1617

**Balzac** (Lunch/Dinner)  
60 Henry St. at Crosby Street (D, 2, 3 trains to Clark St.; A, C trains to High St.) (718) 243-2010

**Cafe Buon Gusto** (Lunch/Dinner)  
151 Montague St. at Henry Street (R train to Court St.; 2, 3, 4, 5 trains to Borough Hall) (718) 624-3838

**Cafe Petite Crevette** (Dinner)  
127 Atlantic Ave. at Henry Street (F, G trains to Bergen St.) (718) 658-6660

**Eamonn's** (Lunch/Dinner)  
174 Montague St. at Clinton Street (R train to Court St.; 2, 3, 4, 5 trains to Borough Hall) (718) 596-4969

**Palмира's** (Lunch/Dinner)  
41 Clark St. at Hicks Street (2, 3 trains to Clark St.) (718) 237-4100

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**Red Rose Restaurant** (Lunch/Dinner)  
315 Smith St. at Union Street (F, G trains to Carroll St.) (718) 625





# Strikes out

**Brooklyn Heights' Balzar swings & misses with diverse menu, overcooked entrees**

By Tina Barry  
for The Brooklyn Papers

In July 2002, I reviewed Isobel, a restaurant in Brooklyn Heights. I raved about Isobel's cheerful ambience and elegant space. I loved the waitstaff, and the clean, clear flavors of Tony Raggi's French dishes wowed me. Raggi had an affinity for seafood, turning out a sea bass with morels that I still think about. I had high hopes for Isobel, but like Tinto (the restaurant it replaced at 66 Henry St.), Isobel was short-lived.

Balzar, the third optimist to fill the location, opened last summer. From the outside, Balzar resembles Soho's Balthazar, a French brasserie. The companion ends there. Balzar's owner, Nando Ghorchian, who also owns Caffè Buco Gusto on Montague Street, hasn't tinkered much with his predecessor's decor. The heavy wooden tables, pewter chandeliers and rustic tiled floor are still in place. He's added a few settees covered in leopard print in the bar and lounge area where a tapas menu is served, and he's kept the leather seats in the dining room but painted some of the walls pale green.

While the look of the room hasn't been altered dramatically, the food has undergone a sea change. Balzar's chef, Miguel Leon, describes the cuisine as "a little Mediterranean, a little Italian, a little French," which sums up the problem: The menu is too diverse.

In the bar and lounge area, a small selection of tapas and raw seafood is served. The dinner menu features onion soup, crab cakes, grilled calamari, oysters Rockefeller and eggplant parmesiana and that's just the appetizers. Some dishes, like a light eggplant rollatini, are handled beautifully; some are not, with overcooking marinating more than one dish.

The bread-and-pastry chef, Nataly Herrera, bakes a chewy, salty, rosemary-scented focaccia, served warm, that starts the meal off with a bang. If only some of the dishes were cooked with such care.

I'd prefer chewing on my sneaker to grinding on the grilled squid, although the spicy anchovy mayonnaise served with the calamari made a deliciously fishy and salty spread for the focaccia.

An eggplant rollatini filled with fresh ricotta and mushrooms was just right—the eggplant was pleasantly smoky from the grill, the filling fluffy, and the tomato



Delirious for delizia: (Above left) Balzar pastry chef Nataly Herrera's mixed berry delizia, a meringue sandwich with whipped cream, raspberries, strawberries and a generous drizzle of chocolate sauce. (Above) On April 3, Chef Miguel Leon's special was a filet of sole en papillote—sole roasted with zucchini and tomatoes in parchment paper and topped with a lemon caper sauce and toasted almond flakes.

sauce chunky and redolent of garlic and sweet tomatoes.

Pasta that sounded simple and appealing was pedestrian. Pappardelle with mixed mushrooms and pecorino cheese was topped with ordinary button mushrooms, and the cheese was sprinkled too thinly. A hearty spoonful of cheese would have elevated the dish from bland to better.

I wish the entrees made me forget the meal's beginning, but two dishes we tried were ruined by overcooking. The filet mignon, ordered medium rare, arrived gray in the center—a heartbreaking end to a good piece of meat. Fresh, creamy, truffled mashed potatoes and a few string beans and julienne carrots were crisp, but bit players couldn't rescue this flop.

Neither could tender mussels and sweet clams rescue an elaborate bouchée stacked with enough seafood to open an aquarium. It would be difficult to find a better-looking entree than the pink-and-white bouillabaisse with its black mussel shells and wedges of crisp, toasted French bread. In a deep bowl sat big chunks of tuna and salmon, loads of mussels, shrimp and clams, half a lob-

ster tail and the meat of a lobster claw, all sitting in a rich, garlicky, saffron-scented broth.

After a bite of the overcooked tuna, the dry salmon, and the tough lobster claw meat, I was too dejected to do more than pick at the perfect mussels and fresh clams.

The meal ended on a positive note with a pear and chocolate tart. The tart's filling was bittersweet, somewhere between pudding and fudge; and its crust was crisp and buttery. Thin, mint syrup was splashed across the plate adding a refreshing note to the dessert.

Equally good was a zabaglione gelato, served in a martini glass, with the complex, raisin-like taste of Marsala wine.

At the moment, Balzar lacks confidence. The decor, while pleasant, lacks visual interest, and the kitchen's output needs fine-tuning. On an evening when this large restaurant seated maybe 20 diners, there was no reason for dishes to be served overcooked.

Once Balzar sharpens its focus, it could become a pleasant place in Brooklyn Heights to enjoy a meal.

## DINING

**Balzar Restaurant & Bar** (60 Henry St. between Cranberry and Orange streets in Brooklyn Heights) accepts Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Entrees: \$6.95-\$18. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner seven days a week. Sunday brunch is served from 10 am to 3 pm. For reservations call (718) 243-2010.



Spice road: Currysource offers curries, naan, chutneys and more. (At right) Homesick Brits and Anglophiles take advantage of the shop's selection of imported specialties including Spotted Dick.

## Curry in a hurry

The Currysource philosophy, says the tiny shop's owner Gary Dovey, "is to provide simplicity, quality and care" to the Boerum Hill neighborhood it serves. To that end, Dovey and partner Jilly Stephens' 200-square-foot store offers four standard curries—one vegetarian, two chicken and a shrimp, all made with freshly ground spices, hard-to-find fenugreek leaves and free-range chicken.

"We'd feed our dishes to our kid, happily," says Dovey, adding, "There are no additives and only minimal amounts of raw sugar." Sides (\$7.5 to \$4) include basmati rice, samosas (fried, triangular pastries that may be filled with vegetables or meat or both), and fragrant mango, lime or coriander. Geeta's Chutneys imported from England, which are "just two times as good as anyone else's," he adds.

Now there's more of Currysource to love than ever before, as the store increased the size of their portions by 25 percent last week, Dovey told GO Brooklyn.

Since October 2002, Currysource has been supplying Spotted Dick (a sweet-and-raisin steamed pudding), a variety



of tea, candies with cute names like Jelly Tots, Smarties and Maltesers, and even treacle (which sounds like something dribbled into Oliver's tin cup, but is a harmless, albeit intensely sweet) molasses syrup, to homesick British ex-pats in Brooklyn and beyond.

Currysource (88 Bergen St. between Smith and Hoyt streets) accepts Visa and MasterCard. Curries: \$6-\$9. The store is open Monday-Friday, 5 pm-8 pm, and Saturday-Sunday, 1 pm-8 pm. Delivery available to nearby neighborhoods. For information, call (718) 797-9719 or visit www.currysource.com.

— Tina Barry

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12:00 Noon, 2:30 or 5:00 p.m.  
Adults, \$42 & Children, 12 & under, \$21.00  
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Lobby Level of the New York Marriott Brooklyn  
333 Adams Street

NEW YORK AT THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE

**Marco Polo RISTORANTE**  
**Celebrate Easter**  
SUNDAY, APRIL 11TH, 2004  
Seatings from 1-7pm

**APPETIZER**  
Mozzarella Fresca • Insalata Organica • Antipasto Misto • Lobster Bisque  
Insalata Di Mare (Seafood & Shellfish Salad, add \$3.95)

**PASTA**  
Penne Al Filetto Di Pomodoro  
(Penne with Prosciutto, Onions, Basil & Fresh Tomato Sauce)  
Cheese Ravioli  
Risotto Alla Pescatore \$34.95 per person  
\$18.95 per child (under 12)

**ENTRÉE**  
Salmon Tornado  
(Broiled Salmon served over Spinach & Lobster Sauce)  
Pesce Spada Rollatine  
(Sautéed Swordfish stuffed with Breadcrumbs, Pignoli Nuts, Raisins, Tomato & Capers)  
Agnello Pasqualina  
(Broiled Baby Lamb, Rosemary & Herbs)  
Pollo Valdostano  
(Chicken stuffed with Fontina Cheese, Prosciutto and topped with Mushroom Sauce)  
Prime Rib Au Jus

All entrées are served with vegetables & potatoes  
Coffee \*\* Pastiera \*\* Assorted Desserts

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Chicken Caesar Salad	Chicken Fajita Roll-up
Roma Roll-up	Fried Chicken Salad
Santa Fe Salad	All-American Burger (Add Cheese \$0.60)
Club House Grill	Oriental Salad
Aztec Salad	Low-Fat Veggie Quesadilla

**Soup & Salad Combo**  
Soup of the Day with Small House or Caesar Salad. Ask your server.  
Limited time offer. Offers valid Mon - Thur, 11am - 2pm for dine-in customers only. No substitutions, please. Not valid with any other offers or specials.

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Elite party location  
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**UPCOMING PERFORMANCES**





# Where to GO

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

## SAT, APRIL 10

**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**  
**NATIVE WALK:** New York Like a Native takes a walk around several neighborhoods. \$13. 1:30 pm to 4 pm. Call for reservations and meeting place. (718) 393-7537.

## PERFORMANCE

**UNIVERSAL CIRCUS:** Circus featuring song and dance, clowns, aerialists, elephants and more. \$10-\$29. Noon, 4:30 pm, 8 pm. Prospect Park, enter at Parkside and Ocean avenues. (800) 227-1700 or www.ticketmaster.com.

**BARGES BAR:** Vintage Sals performs jazz, world music, classical and other music. 7 pm. No cover. 376 North St. (718) 965-9177.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** "The Vice." \$15. \$12 seniors and children 12 and under and 8 pm. 199 14th St. (718) 595-5547.

**MUSIC:** Mike Dougherty, front man of band Soul Coaching, performs. 18+ please. \$14. Doors open at 9 pm. show at 10 pm. Northside, 66 North 5th St. (718) 596-0133.

**FREDDY'S BACKROOM:** Andy Seider plays his eight-string guitar. No cover. 9:30 pm. Others. 485 Dean St. (718) 622-7035.

**UP OVER JAZZ:** Jazz presents Robert Glasper Quintet. \$15 plus \$5 minimum. 7 pm, 11 pm and 12:30 am. 351 Flatbush Ave. (718) 398-5413.

**COMEDY:** Brooklyn Brew-Ha-Ha at the Boulder Bar. \$5 admission and two-drink minimum. 9:30 pm. 273 North St. (718) 624-8878.

**JAZZ:** Magnolia Restaurant presents Jay Vihari Trio. No cover or minimum. 10 pm to 1 am. 486 South Ave. (718) 207-3613.

**ACOUSTIC MUSIC:** Alternative pop with Marwood. 21 plus. No cover. 10:30 pm. Lala Lounge, 153 North Seventh Street. (718) 686-6971.

**BROOKLYN LUCEUM:** presents "Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind" (30 plays in 60 minutes). \$15 online (www.gowgo.com) or \$9 plus the roll of a single six-sided die at the door. 11:30 pm. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 670-7324.

**BLUES:** Joe Baratta Trio plays. Waterfront Bar House. 152 Atlantic Ave. Call for time and cover. (718) 522-2294.

**HEIGHTS PLAYERS:** "The Day of Anne Frank." \$12. 8 pm. 26 Wilcox Place. (718) 227-2752.

## CHILDREN

**BARNES AND NOBLE:** Help celebrate the birthday of Seaside Streets Elmo. Giveaways include stickers and books. Brooklyn Bridge Park, enter at Main Street in DUMBO. (718) 802-0603, ext. 17. Free.

**EGG HUNT:** Children are invited to an Easter egg event. Face painting too. 11 am to 4 pm. First 200 children receive free goodie basket. Brooklyn Bridge Park, enter at Main Street in DUMBO. (718) 802-0603, ext. 17. Free.

**ARABIC FESTIVAL:** Live musical performance and folkloric dance. Other Arabic activities. \$4. free for members. 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Also, explore costs of arms from countries around the world. 2:30 pm to 4 pm. For ages 6 and older. Brooklyn Children's Museum. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

**BARGE MUSIC:** family chamber music concert of works by Beethoven. 2 pm. Call for ticket info. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

**AUDUBON CENTER:** Equipped Productions Puppet Show, "Baby Who?" 2 pm to 3 pm. Prospect Park. (718) 297-3600. Free.

## OTHER

**SENIOR MEETING:** Older Women's League. Topic discussion in "Older Women in Senior Housing?" 10:30 am. Brooklyn College. New Ingersoll Hall, room 432. One block from the junction of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 991-2490. Free.

**MEETING:** Ovington Chapter of AARP meets. 1 pm. Bay Ridge Center for Older Adults. 6955 Fourth Ave. (718) 768-2655. Free.

**POETRY READING:** Brooklyn Heights Public Library. Business brunch, hosts a reading by several poets. Donna Masini is featured reader. 2 pm to 4:45 pm. 280 Canal Plaza West. (718) 623-7100. Free.

**BAMCINEMATEK:** Series by French director and photographer Raymond Depardon. Today, "Caught in the Act" (1994). \$10. 2 pm and 6:50 pm.

## TUES, APRIL 13

**LAST DAY OF PASSOVER**  
 Meeting After Chanukah 363rd Street, 2:30 pm. Shore Hill Housing. 9000 Shore Rd. (718) 748-9118.

**MEAL OF MOSHACH:** On the final day of Passover, Congregation B'nai Anshim of Brooklyn Heights looks forward to the coming of the Jewish Messiah. In the custom of the Baal Shem Tov, the Orthodox synagogue invites everyone to a festive late afternoon meal when, it is believed, the radiance of Moshiach is openly revealed. Featured speakers: Rabbi Aaron Raskin and Reb Simcha Weissman. Music by the "Senior's Vegans." 6:15 pm. 117 Remsen St. (718) 596-4848 ext. 11. Free.

**UNIVERSAL CIRCUS:** 10:30 am and 7:30 pm. See Sat., April 10.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** "The Vice." 3 pm. See Sat., April 10.

**HEIGHTS PLAYERS:** "The Day of Anne Frank." 2 pm. See Sat., April 10.

**OTHER**  
**ZEN CENTER:** Morning program for community members of all ages commemorating the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha. 10 am to 11 pm. 500 State St. (718) 875-6229. Free.

**UP OVER JAZZ:** Jazz presents Robert Glasper Quintet. \$15 plus \$5 minimum. 7 pm, 11 pm and 12:30 am. 351 Flatbush Ave. (718) 398-5413.

**COMEDY:** Brooklyn Brew-Ha-Ha at the Boulder Bar. \$5 admission and two-drink minimum. 9:30 pm. 273 North St. (718) 624-8878.

**JAZZ:** Magnolia Restaurant presents Jay Vihari Trio. No cover or minimum. 10 pm to 1 am. 486 South Ave. (718) 207-3613.

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**BAMCINEMATEK:** Series by French director and photographer Raymond Depardon. Today, "Caught in the Act" (1994). \$10. 2 pm and 6:50 pm.

## WEDS, APRIL 14

**CHAMBER TALK:** Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce's Minority and Women Business Owners Committee presents a seminar on procurement opportunities. Keynote speaker is Rep. Nydia Velázquez. \$10, members free. 8:30 am. Long Island University. Netcong Building, 1 University Plaza. Reservations. (718) 975-1000. 115.

**WRITING WORKSHOP:** Families First Center for Older Adults hosts a talk "Psychology and You." Learn how to take control of your life. Free. 10 am to 11 am. 250 B'way St. (718) 237-1862.

**MEETING:** Community Board 6 general monthly meeting. 6:30 pm. 250 B'way St. (718) 643-2027.

**MEETING:** of Community Board 7. Presentation on state liquor license renewal for Club 37. 6:30 pm. 4201 Fourth Ave. (718) 624-0033.

**LIFE AND ETHICS WORKSHOP:** Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture hosts a talk on how to introduce practical ways to bring discussions on values to family, workplace and community. 10:30 to 7:30 pm. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 768-2272.

**JAZZ:** Up Over Jazz Cafe presents Enos Payne Trio. 8 pm. (718) 398-5413.

**FREDDY'S BACKROOM:** Jazz with Will Wilson. No cover. 9:30 pm. 485 Dean St. (718) 622-7035.

**LAUNCH ENFORCEMENT:** Youth program invites kids to learn about law enforcement as a career. Meet with local police officers and guest. 3:30 pm. NYPD 74th Precinct. 191 74th St. (718) 624-3218.

**KEA MEETING:** Community Board 6 hosts a meeting with representatives of planned KEA Retail Center in Red Hook who will make an informational presentation to the community. 6 pm. P.A.L. Micco Center. 110 W. Ninth St. (718) 643-2027.

**FRESHE CHAT:** Plymouth Church hosts the talk "Christian History: Congregationalism in the Life of America." \$15 includes dinner. 6:30 pm. 75 Hicks St. (718) 624-7463.

**SYMPOSIUM:** Pratt Institute School of Architecture presents Ed Morris, principal, Morris Raskin Oden, Inc. 6 pm. Higgins Hall. 200 Wiloughby Ave. (718) 399-4033. Free.

**BOOK PARTY:** Celebration of the release of Osborne's book "The Brooklyn Cygnets: Harbald Drums and the New York Island." 6 pm to 11 pm. Brooklyn Brewery. 79 North 14th St. (718) 486-7440. Free.

**POETS COFFEEHOUSE:** Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch, presents writers Brenda Coultas, Marie Perle and Larry Green in a reading. 7 pm. Grand Army Plaza. 79 North 14th St. (718) 486-7440. Free.

**VOLUNTEER FAIR:** Look out volunteer opportunities for busy people. \$10. 10 am to 2 pm. 200 Wiloughby Ave. (718) 399-4033. Free.

**BARGE MUSIC:** presents a chamber music concert of Mozart, Schuffert, Eisler and Ravel. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

**THEATER:** Brooklyn College Department of Theater presents "Silence," a comedy by Maura Buffin. \$5. 8 pm. Brooklyn College. New Workshop Theater, one block from the intersection of Nostrand and Flatbush avenues. (718) 951-4500.

**JAZZ:** Up Over Jazz Cafe presents Robert Glasper Trio. 8 pm. 351 Flatbush Ave. (718) 398-5413.

**FREDDY'S BACKROOM:** Kings County Opry presents Len Larson and Henry Street. 8 pm. 485 Dean St. (718) 622-7035.

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## FRI, APRIL 16

**SMALL BUSINESS TALK:** Assistance program for not-for-profit organizations, manufacturers and small businesses. 8 am to 10 am. Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon St. (718) 254-8779.

**DINE IN BROOKLYN:** Brooklyn's first restaurant week kicks off today and runs through April 22. Three-course meal for \$18.95. For participating restaurants, see page 8. (718) 856-3846.

**THEATER:** Brooklyn College Department of Theater presents "Silence," a comedy by Maura Buffin. \$5. 2 pm. Brooklyn College. New Workshop Theater, one block from the intersection of Nostrand and Flatbush avenues. (718) 951-4500.

**CASINO NIGHT:** The Brooklyn Philharmonic Chorus presents "Viva Las Vegas," a casino musical. \$25. 7 pm to 11 pm. Bethlehem Lutheran Church Community Hall, 490 Pacific St. (718) 596-2904.

**BARGES BAR:** Christiana Draglin sings. \$5. 7 pm to 9 pm. 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177.

**BARGE MUSIC:** presents a chamber music concert of Webern, Dvorak and Beethoven. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

**ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE:** presents "Turning," a real-time video event and installation, featuring music from Antony and the Johnsons' new album, and a live video landing. \$10. 8 pm. 30 Water St. (718) 254-8779.

**BCBC:** Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn Theater Company of Jamaica. \$40. \$38. 8 pm. Brooklyn College. Walt Whitman Theater, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

**BRIC STUDIO:** Theater Nexus presents "The Day of Anne Frank." \$10. 8 pm. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 657-4816.

**PARENT SUPPORT:** Salvation Army of Bay Ridge offers a discussion on techniques to use if it stalled. 7:30 pm. See Sat., April 10.

**UNIVERSAL CIRCUS:** 10:30 am and 7:30 pm. See Sat., April 10.

**CONCERT:** "With Strings Attached," a concert series of classical and electric guitar presents Matthew Slocum. 1:30 pm. Brooklyn College Library, 200 Bedford Ave. (718) 624-0033.

**BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM:** German storytelling of "The Dragon and the Magic Ring." For ages 6 and older. \$4. free for members. 3 pm to 6:30 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

**LAUNCH ENFORCEMENT:** Youth program invites kids to learn about law enforcement as a career. Meet with local police officers and guest. 3:30 pm. NYPD 74th Precinct. 191 74th St. (718) 624-3218.

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NOT JUST NETS • THE NEW BROOKLYN • NOT JUST NETS

# WHAT BETTER WE CAN DO

## Community gardeners say developer reneged on deal

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

A community garden on Flatbush Avenue has become the latest pawn in an ongoing battle over developer Bruce Ratner's plans to build a massive basketball arena and office tower complex across the street in Prospect Heights.

Named for a teddy bear found on the site, the Bear's Garden was started by a group of neighborhood residents more than 20 years ago. The group turned a paved parking lot into an 8,000-square-foot green garden of Japanese maples, peach trees and tomato plants.

But in 1996, Ratner had most of the lot plowed to make way for a Modell's sporting goods store and PC Richards electronics store after acquiring the site — bordered by Pacific Street and Flatbush, Fourth and Atlantic avenues — from the city.

As part of a deal brokered between Ratner and the gardeners, then-Borough President Howard Golden put up \$250,000 from his budget and Ratner agreed to hand over a 5,000-square-foot plot of the property. Ratner also agreed to convert the garden site to a public trust within 180 days, according

to a lease signed on July 16, 1998. "We've been patient for six years and we're still waiting for this to go through," said Jon Crow, a coordinator for the garden.

According to Crow, Ratner told the gardeners he could not convey the land because his "bank loan did not contain the necessary stipulation to release the garden property from the loan documents."

And now, Crow says, Ratner is willing to release the land to the Trust for Public Land, a national non-profit conservation organization, but insists on holding onto the air rights over the land.

Those transferable development rights would enable Ratner to build taller buildings on the Modell's and PC Richards properties than current zoning allows. The garden sits across Flatbush Avenue from where Ratner plans to build a 600-ft-tall building, towering over the Williamsburg Bank building, currently the tallest building in Brooklyn.

That tower is part of Ratner's \$2.5 billion Atlantic Yards project, which would include an arena to house the New Jersey Nets basketball team and 17 residential and office towers.

Forest City Ratner was glad to partner with the community to preserve Bear's Garden, that's



Bear's Garden fans don't want to give air rights to developer Bruce Ratner.

why for years we've provided the garden with free electricity and water, kept their sidewalks clean, and worked with the borough president on the fencing," said Ratner spokeswoman Beth Davidson.

"As planned, we fully intend to turn the garden over to the trust,"

Davidson added. She declined to comment on the issue of the air rights. Andy Stone, director of New York City programs for the Trust for Public Land, which has been involved in the Bear's Garden negotiations from the beginning, declined

to comment on many of the details. "We've been involved, but we always try not to serve as an advocate, but as an intermediary," Stone said.

During the season, gardeners grow corn, tomatoes, and other herbs. The garden also has

three gold fish, a barbecue and a shaded seating area. "We made sure that it's accessible to the community so anybody who wants a key can get one," said Crow, who paused before adding, "except for Ratner."

# Playing ball with Ratner

## Arena politics aside, kids have fun at Bernard King camp

By Jotham Pedestrom

The Brooklyn Papers

Eighty elementary-school athletes showed their mettle on the court this week during a two-day basketball camp led by former Knicks star forward Bernard King.

But the sheer joy of the Brooklyn school kids, ages 10 to 12, belied a public relations battle being waged over the efforts of the camp's sponsor, Forest City Ratner, to bring the New Jersey Nets to an arena that the company's owner, developer Bruce Ratner, wants to build at Atlantic and Flatbush avenues.

Opponents of Ratner's plan to build the 19,000-seat arena and a towering residential and commercial complex stretching into Prospect Heights say the event is nothing more than a exploitation of the youths intended to fan public support for the development, which would displace hundreds of residents and merchants.

But spokesmen for Ratner say the company wants to reach out to the entire New York City metropolitan area and added that similar camps are planned this summer. Additionally, they said, discounted tickets to Brooklyn Nets games would be available to youth groups as would gymnasium space if the development comes to include an

amateur facility, as reported in The Brooklyn Papers last week. "These are the type of things that kids remember the rest of the school year," said Keith Lewis, executive director of Youth America, which helped organize the camp with Forest City Ratner.

"And for it to be canceled, I don't think they understand what makes impressions on young people," Lewis said.

Parents who came to the gym on Tuesday and Wednesday to watch their children dribble, pass and shoot, learning from the former Knicks great, said nothing but good could come from a day or two of physical activity.

The kids? Well, they loved it. They gathered at Pratt Institute's Athletic Recreation Center in Clinton Hill to learn basketball tips from King, one of New York's most cherished athletes, and as much as he taught them court skills, the 6-foot-7, 205-pound All-Star forward spoke to the building B-ballers about the importance of education.

In between the small talk, he and a cadre of coaches, including Dwyane "Tiny" Morton, coach of Lincoln HS basketball star Sebastian Telfair, instructed 10-minute shooting and dribbling drills. Film-maker Spike Lee and former Knicks guard John Starks were also on hand.

Anton DeLeonero, a shy 12-



Former New York Knicks All-Star forward Bernard King coaches a child at his two-day mini basketball camp held at the Pratt Institute. The camp was sponsored by developer Bruce Ratner.

year-old from PS 307 in Vinegar Hill, said his favorite part of the camp was learning how to shoot lay-ups.

"I like how they teach how to lay up the ball," said Dickinson who said he hopes the Nets move to Brooklyn one day. "And now I know what lay up is, right?"

If that wasn't enough, all 80 of the kids were treated to a basketball game at the Continental Airlines Arena, in New Jersey, where they watched the Milwaukee Bucks defeat the Nets, 103-68.

Ratner agreed to purchase the Nets in January for \$500 million. He is awaiting NBA approval of the sale.

Asked what role he plays in the Brooklyn Nets effort, King, who grew up in Fort Greene and led the charge in scoring in the 1984-85 season with the Knicks, said he was "an adviser" to Ratner. "We also want to assure to these kids that there are people who genuinely care about them," he added.

Opponents believe the outreach is hollow and meant simply to bolster support in neighborhoods that have yet to sound off on the development plans, which would relocate more than 300 residents of Prospect Heights. The neigh-

borhoods surrounding the Pratt Institute, where most of the children go to school, would not be directly affected by the plan.

Sisters Patrick and Shellie Hagan, two vocal opponents of the development, showed up at the event, much to the chagrin of some of the parents and organizers. Patrick Hagan, president of the Prospect Heights Action Coalition, said she was upset about the camp organizers' selection of just six public schools in Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Prospect Heights from hundreds in Brooklyn.

She also questioned why most, if not all, the children were black. Hagan is white.

Organizers and parents at the event said race was not an issue. "We didn't choose the kids, they were chosen by the principals and gym teachers of their respective schools," said Ratner spokesman Barry Baum. "As for other remarks, we have no comment other than to say she may want to think a little more carefully before she speaks."

Among parents who showed up at the gymnasium, most said the activities of the two days rose above the feud. Sarina Dumas, who lives near Shellie Hagan on the border of Bedford-Stuyvesant and Clinton Hill, said the event was for kids, not grownups.

I understand what they're saying and I got nothing against it," said Dumas, whose 12-year-old son Najmeh Lee, took part in the camp. "But I was there for my child. This is for the children. I liked it because, like I say, it kept them off the street."

"Anyway," she added, "these kids, they aren't into politics right now. They're into B-ball."

# 'town plan downplays its impact on transport

To the editor:

I'm writing to clarify the transit impacts of the Downtown Brooklyn Plan development attributed to me in the March 27 Brooklyn Papers article headlined "Big turnout for public hearing on D'town Plan."

The best estimate is that during the morning peak hour, subway ridership will increase on trains from Brooklyn approaching Downtown by 20 percent in 2013 and 30 percent in 2023, while riders on Manhattan-bound trains from Downtown will increase by 15 percent and 25 percent, respectively. Of the 20 percent increase, 4 percent is due to ongoing Brooklyn development and 4 percent to background growth of travel to Manhattan jobs. To this, the arena project adds 4 percent, and the Downtown rezoning adds another 8 percent in 2013.

Following current patterns of subway use, almost half (45 percent) of this growth, will occur on the most crowded capacity way lines, the A/C and the 4, both scheduled at the maximum 25 trains per hour. In other words, the most crowded subway ways will be more crowded, providing on the A/C and 4/5 just 3.5 square feet per passenger. This is less space than typical of the infamously crowded Lexington Avenue line, which is prompting the commission to the Second Avenue subway line.

All effects will be greater still with full build-out of the rezoning,

## LETTER

which Community Consulting Services asserts should have been considered in the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Downtown Plan.

To maintain current conditions, we estimate that eight more trains will be needed on the 4/5 and A/C lines by 2013 and 11 more by 2023. The only reliable solution is designing the potential extension of the Long Island Rail Road to Lower Manhattan, which would parallel the A/C and 4/5, to accommodate subway riders both entering and exiting Downtown Brooklyn.

The addition of subway riders would double the cost-effectiveness of the LIRR line, which is unlikely supportable for only suburban commuters and airport passengers. Clearly, a new LIRR line cannot be allowed to take tunnel capacity away from the A and C lines, as one option under study contemplates. If this were done by a shift of the C to the tunnel used by the F, it would preclude another transit goal, the extension of the F express to Lower Manhattan, consigning 75,000 F peak-period riders a day to their inordinately long commute.

Our findings are at odds with the conclusion of a recent addition to the Downtown Brooklyn Plan DEIS that no additional

subway service is needed. We first undertook the subway usage analysis because the original DEIS only looked at station crowding. Without a determination of the demand for added train capacity, we feared that advocates of a successful Downtown Brooklyn effort in making the case for more investment in Brooklyn in the upcoming MTA Capital Plan and in the LIRR extension study.

Ten days before the City Planning Commission hearing for the Downtown Brooklyn Plan, a supplemental DEIS (SDEIS) was issued that was prepared to include arena trips. We analyzed the assessment of "line head impacts," which was added in response to community objections to its omission in the original DEIS.

However, instead of the SDEIS using NYC Transit's model of link-by-link ridership, as merits the city's largest-ever rezoning effort, it used a shortcut method that is said to compare all added trips to annual passenger counts at the "corridor" entering Manhattan, as a surrogate for a corridor link-by-link ridership. If the SDEIS has actually combined all trips over the Manhattan corridor, the projected increase should be twice as high as reported.

For a more realistic picture, we found that using NYC Transit data to differentiate the trips at each corridor — that the impacts are about 20 percent greater on

Continued from page 1

Architect Alex Washburn, a planner of the mixed-use proposal, said the project was still in the early phases.

The objective is to come up with a plan that provides more jobs, more investment, more public access and more imaginative use of the waterfront, Washburn said. The plan could pump upwards of \$2 billion into the Red Hook area, according to John McGintick, co-chair of the Red Hook Civic Association and a vocal opponent of the Beka proposal.

Strever Bros. Eccles & Rouse is using the River Sugar Refinery property on Richards Street to be included in the plan. As reported in last week's Brooklyn Papers, that property is currently in contract to an unnamed buyer.

Similarly, an Ikea official said his company is in contract for the 23-acre shipyard site (another 23 acres of the property comprise the Erie Basin waters between the breaker pier) and has been for the past two years.

Pat Smith, project director for Ikea Red Hook, said he found it "curious" that news of the other plan began circulating just weeks before the company was set to certify design plans with the Department of City Planning, starting the clock on the city's public review process.

Because the site is zoned as M-3, meant for heavy manufacturing, both plans would need a variance and would face the city's rigorous Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP).

Asked this week to comment on the alternative proposal, Smith said, "You have the Ikea project — there is no other project."

Instead, he touted changes to the Ikea site made after what he

called two years of planning and 50 community meetings.

Those changes include leasing four piers to the neighboring Erie Basin Barge Port, which is home to 200 working vessels. The extra piers would allow for upwards of 400 more vessels, according to Bob Hughes, vice president of the barge port.

Ikea also announced plans to maintain a dry dock, convert an existing pier into a public area and maintain five gantry cranes on the site so visitors can learn about waterfront activities, according to Smith. The changes also include increasing a public esplanade along the water to 6.4 acres, or a

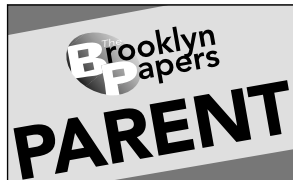
mile end to another.

Ikea will be making a presentation of its plan to Community Board 4 at a special public meeting on April 15 at 6 p.m. at the P.A.L. Mico Center, at 110 W. North St.

But word of the changes this week did little to quell the fears of some residents who believe that an Ikea will turn the entire neighborhood into a knot of truck and car traffic.

They want to take some of the most extraordinary waterfront property in New York City and turn it into a mall, and then the rest of the community becomes a parking lot," McGintick said.

Concerns over traffic are at the



# Advice on big bullies

Q: You young mothers disgust me. You don't know how to raise children. Get your acts together and learn how to boss your children. They need to know the rules. Why are you such winos?

—a reader

A: Wimps? Yes. And what about liars? Sounds harsh, but it's true. "Parents lie to their children all the time," says a retired father of four. "They say, 'I'm going to leave you in this store if you don't come now.' But of course that's not true."

Another lie of sorts, and empty threat: A mother says to her kids: "I'm not telling you again to stay in this play area." A minute later, "I'm not telling you again..." Kids quickly learn that Mom doesn't have enough backbone to back up what she says.

The Miami reader lamenting that young mothers are wimps was among several responses to a recent column about two 8-year-old girlfriends who bully a 3-year-old boy, a brother of one of the girls. A neighbor, who has no children and works out of her home, had seen the girls slap the boy and push him down and wondered how to intervene.

In the column, a crisis counselor for the Childhelp USA National Child Abuse Hotline (800-4-A-CHILD) suggested the neighbor first talk to the mother. That is the approach the neighbor decided to start with. Too bad if the mother is offended, several readers say.

The 3-year-old boy needs someone to speak up for him. There also is basic parenting his mother doesn't get: He needs same-age friends and activities for his age, and supervision by Mom instead of 8-year-olds. The neighbor who wrote in has also noticed that the father doesn't give attention to the children either.

The boy's situation was upsetting to readers, including two sisters, who wish someone had cared for them more closely and intervened.

"As a child, my sister and I were abused in a similar manner by our babysitter's older children and friends," says reader. "We were degraded, slapped and spanked, threatened against telling and never did. The abuse is likely to continue if not stopped. Tell the boy's mother that 'while she's not looking,' her daughter's friend is abusing her son. This way, it's someone else's child you're pointing a finger at and not her own. Wish I could have been there to help. They would have been concerned enough to do something for my

## Parent-to-Parent

By Betsy Flagler

sister and me." Martha and Bob Patrick, both educators and parents, said at least one of the 8-year-old girls in the column may have been the target of bullying, or have witnessed it in her home. Since the girl's friend is initiating the bullying and the sister is going along with it, both families need to be talked to.

But it's difficult to share your knowledge and intervene successfully, says a grandmother, even in your own family. She has two granddaughters, and worries at how the baby is mistreated by her 3-year-old sister and ignored by her mother. The sister hits and pinches the baby and knocks her down now that she can walk. Her mother puts the 3-year-old in timeout, but then cuddles her and apologizes for punishing her.

"The mother says she overindulges the older one and ignores the younger one, so the toddler won't be jealous," the grandmother says. "The child also hits her mother and father."

Over the past 14 years, using the voices of parents, grandparents and professionals, Parent to Parent columnists have advocated an authoritative style of parenting — high on structure, nurturing and age-appropriate latitude. That style, researchers have found, is the healthiest of all for children when it's used consistently.

## Can you help?

We are friends with a couple next door, but my 5-year-old twins don't want to play with their kids, ages 5 and 3. We don't want them to play together either because their idea of play is pulling arms, pulling clothing, shoving and jumping on people. We're tired of making stupid excuses or leaving the house on weekends to avoid the problem. —a mother

If you have tips or a question, call our toll-free hotline any time at (800) 827-1092.

# COMPETITION FOR IKEA...

Continued from page 1

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community member, with those seeking to bring more jobs to the area on one side and those seeking to minimize traffic and increase available housing on the other.

Ikea proponents, including the Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corp., said they would oppose any alternative plan that includes residential development.

Igor Katsman, vice president of operations for Snapple, agrees.

The Snapple distribution site for New York City is based in Red Hook and moves 500 million cases of the soft drinks in and out of that location each year.

"I'm against adding any residential because any residential would be expensive and this is the type of people that don't want trucks around," said Katsman, who had not seen or heard about the alternative plan.

"They will drive us out," he cautioned. The Manhattan Institute, a conservative think tank, posted the Strever Bros. Eccles & Rouse rendering of the Ikea site on its Web site this week.

Julia Vinello-Martin, a senior

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## TRAFFIC...

Continued from page 14

tering Downtown, resulting in about 6,000 more peak-hour riders than the SDEIS calculates.

The gap is largely attributable to different underlying assumptions. One is the proportion of work trips originating in Brooklyn (the SDEIS assumes only 50 percent, while we assume 65 percent). Another is how many trips are new to the area. The SDEIS deducts 25 percent of subway trips as existing trips, based on a higher rate of trips generated by floor area being displaced. We do not on the grounds that the premise of redevelopment is that existing space is underutilized and is not as job productive as new construction.

More disconcerting is that the SDEIS changed the distribution of trips, shifting trips to lower-use lines without explanation. For example, the 5 train went from getting 10 percent of the trips added by other development in 2013 to carrying only 1 percent of the retooling trips. Even with this seemingly arbitrary reduction, the SDEIS reports crowding on the 5 line is at 99 percent the threshold for adding service.

However, the threshold used in city EISs for a significant impact is about 10 percent higher than NYC Transit guidelines for adding service, reducing the likelihood of causing an impact.

Fortunately, Borough President Marty Markowitz has forged ahead of the SDEIS limitations and has prescribed a transit agenda among the conditions (attached to) his approval of the Downtown Brooklyn development plan. It includes measures such as restoring, not scrapping, subway cars to be able to respond to service demands and pursuing a Lower Manhattan rail option that benefits, not penalizes, Brooklyn subway riders.

Everyone should rally around his call to "speak with one voice" in dealing with the MTA Capital Plan. It's time to reverse the historic shortchanging of Brooklyn riders who contribute the most fare revenue to back MTA bonds. This includes the governor's decision later this month on a new Lower Manhattan connection that fully accounts for Brooklyn's needs.

Conrad & Kline is chair  
Community Consulting Services



## What a ride!

Borough President Marty Markowitz celebrates after smashing a bottle of egg cream on the lead car of Coney Island's world famous Cyclone roller coaster, christening it for the 2004 season. Astroland Park opened its gates on Sunday.

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**(718) 834-9350**

**Fax: (718) 834-1713**

**Email: ads@BrooklynPapers.com**

• Your ad will appear in all editions of The Brooklyn Papers published during the week in which the ad runs.

• Once ordered, a Classified Ad may NOT be cancelled before its first insertion.

• Ads ordered and paid for by deadline are generally included in the next edition, but sometimes ads may be held for an additional week, based on production and space considerations. The Brooklyn Papers shall be under no liability for its failure for any cause to insert an advertisement.

**CHARGE IT!**



• Ads ordered to run more than one week may be cancelled after the first week. However, while the ad may be cancelled, NO REFUND OR CREDIT will be issued.

• Contract rates for The Brooklyn Classifieds are "rate holders" — no skipped issues permitted.

• Special "package price" and other discounted multiple insertion rates require prepayment for the total number of weeks ordered, may not be cancelled and may not be short rated to achieve a lower rate on renewal.

• In the event of an error in a published ad, please contact The Brooklyn Papers by the first deadline following publication.

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##### Group Homes

- Brooklyn & Staten Island -

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